

INFORMA~~CONFIDENTIAL~~RT

25X1A

COUNTRY Siam/Indochina

DATE DISTR. 30 July 1948

SUBJECT Nai Khuang Abhaiwong and the Khmer Issarakas

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1C

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF IN SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. There seem to be at least three separate groups of Khmer-Issarakas or Free Cambodians. The first has been secretly bought by the French, the second is seeking, and to some extent obtaining, Siamese protection, and the third is closely allied with the Viet Minh.

2. The pro-Siamese group may, in turn, be divided into two or three, revolving respectively around the personalities of Luang Adul Aduldet Charat, Luang Pibul Songgram and Nai Khuang Abhaiwong. It has been reported that there is one anti-Viet Minh group of Khmer-Issarakas which is led by a certain Lieutenant Sarun, a Siamese-naturalized Cambodian prince who is related to Luang Adul through marriage.

25X1X Comment. The relationships and conflicts among the various groups are obscure. It is possible that Nai Khuang is attempting to unite them all and to orient them towards Siam and away from both the French and the Viet Minh.)

3. Nai Khuang Abhaiwong is the leader and supreme commander in chief of the Khmer-Issarakas. Leaders of all groups are constantly in his house. Nai Khuang regards the problem of Cambodia as quite separate from that of Viet Nam which, he feels, is complicated and more important than that of Siam itself. He feels, therefore, that Cambodia must not become involved in the problems of Viet Nam, but must do all possible for itself.

4. Khuang wants Cambodia to strive for the largest possible degree of autonomy. He would like Siam to assist Cambodia to "make a deal" with the French, according to which Cambodia would be truly independent, but the French sphere of influence (similar to the United States' sphere of influence in the Philippines) would be recognized; French advisers to the Cambodian government would be encouraged, but they must be real advisers and not disguised bullies. In exchange for Siam's recognition of this French sphere of influence, according to Khuang, France would then cede Battambang to Siam. He is willing to allow the other three border provinces to remain in French hands.

25X1X Comment. Unfortunately for Khuang's scheme, Luang Pibul has declared that the question of the lost provinces is a closed issue. However, Khuang is by no means prepared to give up. Khuang may use the question of Battambang as means for a political comeback. Should he make a comeback through other means, he will then raise the issue.)

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input type="checkbox"/> NSRB	<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

Auth: DDA MEMO 4 APR 77

Date: 25 APR 1978 By: 028

EXCISED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist, United States. 4400011-1 Next Review Date: 2008

T.R.